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Report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Economic and Social Council a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security (see annex).

* A/70/50.

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Introduction

1. The purpose of the present document is to respond to Economic and Social Council decision 2011/217, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security to transmit to the Council every year, starting in 2012, a report on the main decisions and policy recommendations, as well as the results achieved by the Committee in the area of food security and nutrition, in accordance with its new roles and vision. More information regarding the new roles and vision of the reformed Committee can be found in A/66/76-E/2011/102 and A/65/73/-E/2010/51. The report begins by briefly describing the main outcomes and decisions taken by the forty-first session of the Committee, held in October 2014, and, where appropriate, updates on follow-up actions. The final report of the session, including relevant appendixes, is not appended to the present document but is available from http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm187e.pdf. The forty second session of the Committee will be held in October 2015.

Main decisions, recommendations and results

Update on the work of the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition

2. At the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition presented the two reports that were requested by the Committee, namely, "Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems" and "Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition".[1] The reports were used as the basis for discussions at the two policy round tables held at the Committee plenary in 2014, the outcomes of which are summarized briefly below. Policy recommendations resulting from the discussions and endorsed by the plenary are provided in the final report contained in the annex.

3. In addition, the Panel of Experts produced a note on "Critical and emerging issues for food security and nutrition"[2] which was used to inform the discussions concerning the preparation of the Committee's multi-year programme of work for the biennium 2016-2017.

4. The Panel of Experts will produce a report for the 2015 plenary session on water for food security and nutrition and has been requested to include in its workplan a study on sustainable agricultural development for food security and nutrition, including the role of livestock, to be presented in 2016, as well as a study on sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition for 2017.

Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems

5. As a result of the policy round table on the topic "Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems", the Committee recognized the impact of food losses and waste on the sustainability and resilience of agricultural and food systems and called for all stakeholders to recognize food security and nutrition as the central objective of sustainable food systems.

[1] Both reports available from http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/en/.

[2] Available from http://www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-hlpe/critical-and-emerging-issues/en/.

6. It recommended a detailed set of actions by appropriate stakeholders, along the following four lines:

(a) Improve data collection and knowledge-sharing on food losses and waste;

(b) Develop effective strategies to reduce food losses and waste;

(c) Take effective steps to reduce food losses and waste;

(d) Improve coordination of policies, strategies and actions to reduce food losses and waste.

Sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition

7. As a result of the policy round table on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition, the Committee recognized the role of fisheries and aquaculture for food security and nutrition as a primary source of protein and essential nutrients as well as a provider of income and livelihoods. It recommended a detailed set of actions by appropriate stakeholders to address the development, policy management and enforcement challenges to the enhancement of the contribution of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to food security and nutrition along the following eight lines:

(a) Give fish the position it deserves in food security and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes;

(b) Promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture policies and management and design climate change adaptation strategies for food security and nutrition;

(c) Seize the opportunities and address the challenges of aquaculture development;

(d) Recognize the contribution of small-scale fisheries;

(e) Enhance the contribution of fish markets and fish trade to food security and nutrition;

(f) Improve social protection and labour rights;

(g) Fully address the gender dimension of the fisheries and aquaculture sector;

(h) Integrate food security and nutrition concerns into fisheries and aquaculture-related policies and programmes.

Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems

8. The Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems were endorsed in October 2014 following a two-year multi-stakeholder consultative process. The Principles address all types of investment in agriculture and food systems, including public, private, large and small, throughout the entire food system. They provide a framework that all stakeholders can use when developing national policies, programmes, regulatory frameworks, corporate social responsibility programmes, individual agreements and contracts. The Principles represent the first time that governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, development banks, foundations, research

institutions and academia have agreed on what constitutes responsible investment in agriculture and food systems that contribute to food security and nutrition.

Framework for action for food security and nutrition in protracted crises

9. In 2012, the Committee launched a two-year consultative process, extended in 2014 for an additional year, to develop and ensure broad ownership of a framework for action to address critical manifestations of food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crises.

10. Since 2013, consultations and related outreach activities have been carried out at both the global and regional levels to ensure broad participation and ownership by all stakeholders.

11. The framework for action is intended to provide guidance, setting out experience-based principles and describing associated actions that can be taken. An endorsed framework for action will provide political recognition and consensus among a wide range of stakeholders on how to address critical manifestations of food insecurity and undernutrition, adapt to specific challenges that are magnified in protracted crises and contribute to resolving the underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition in those contexts.

12. The intended users of the principles are all stakeholders with a role in improving food security and nutrition in protracted crises, namely those providing both short-term and long-term assistance, but also those with a role in contributing to their own food security and nutrition. The principles will be voluntary and should be interpreted and applied in line with existing obligations under national and international law.

13. A finalized framework for action will be submitted for endorsement to the forty second session of the Committee in 2015.

Multi-year programme of work

14. The Committee recommended that the Open-Ended Working Group on the multi-year programme of work continue its work with a view to presenting a proposal on the activities to be carried out by the Committee in the biennium 2016-2017 for endorsement by the plenary in 2015.

15. It also requested that a revised version of the note outlining the different steps of the process for the selection and prioritization of Committee activities be presented at the plenary in 2015 for approval.

Monitoring Committee decisions and recommendations

16. At its forty-first session in October 2014, the Committee decided that an opinion survey would be carried out to gather perceptions about Committee effectiveness as a first step to developing a more comprehensive monitoring framework.

17. Since then, and in accordance with the methodology outlined in the document entitled "Towards a framework for monitoring CFS decisions and recommendations"[3] endorsed at the forty-first session, the CFS Effectiveness Opinion Survey was

[3] Available from http://www.fao.org/bodies/cfs/cfs41/en/.

designed to solicit opinions and perceptions by stakeholders on the Committee's effectiveness, relevance, inclu iveness and participation, coordination and engagement, promotion of policy convergence, evidence-based decision-making, communication strategy, responsiveness, influence and capacity for uptake of Committee products.

18. The survey was implemented in the first quarter of 2015 and its findings and results will be reported at the forty-second session of the Committee.

High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets

19. The High-Level Forum on Connecting Smallholders to Markets will take place on 25 June 2015. The event was organized by the Committee with the technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP) as well as with contributions by the civil society mechanism and the private sector mechanism to the preparation of the background document that informed the discussions. The objective was to reach common understanding among stakeholders regarding opportunities and challenges facing access to markets by smallholders in diverse contexts as well as to identify ways in which the Committee can contribute to addressing those challenges. Finally, the forum was requested to identify broad recommendations on areas for priority actions to strengthen smallholder access to markets. The outcomes of the forum will be presented at the Committee plenary in October 2015.

Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition

20. The Committee endorsed the third version of the Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition, which includes the policy recommendations for biofuels and food security and investing in smallholder agriculture for food security and nutrition that were endorsed at the fortieth session of the Committee in 2013, as well as the statistical figures included in *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013* released by FAO, IFAD and WFP.

Right to food 10-year perspective

21. The Committee discussed the different dimensions of the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, looked back at the progress made over the last 10 years, reviewed the lessons learned and best practices with a view to identifying gaps and challenges and discussed the way forward.

22. It welcomed the contribution of the Voluntary Guidelines in guiding national Governments in the design and implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks and reaffirmed its commitment towards achieving the progressive realization of the right to food in the years to come.

Communication and outreach

23. At its forty-first session, the Committee took note of ongoing communication and outreach activities and emphasized the importance of communication to support effective implementation and realization of Committee recommendations and

decisions. All Committee stakeholders were urged to take appropriate action to disseminate Committee products through their constituencies and be active participants in raising awareness of their uses. FAO, IFAD and WFP were urged to disseminate information about Committee products and their uses throughout their organizations both in Rome and in decentralized offices. Since the forty-first session, the Committee secretariat has increased engagement with the regional offices of FAO, IFAD and WFP to raise their awareness of the products of the Committee and how they can be used to support their work at the regional and national levels. The Committee has co-organized a regional multi-stakeholder workshop together with the FAO regional office, and in partnership with WFP, IFAD and other United Nations organizations, to discuss with country representatives and regional multi-stakeholders the implementation of Committee policy guidance at regional and national levels.

Rules of procedure

24. The Committee amended its rules of procedure concerning the selection criteria for the appointment of the members of the Panel of Experts Steering Committee and the roles of the Committee Advisory Group. It also endorsed the recommendation of the Committee Bureau to allow representatives of academia to participate as observers in Committee meetings.

Annex

Report of the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security (Rome, 13-17 October 2014)

The full report of the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, which was held at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome, from 13 to 17 October 2014, can be found at the following link: http://www.fao.org/3/a-mm187e.pdf.

The report includes appendix A, Agenda of the session; appendix B, Membership of the Committee; appendix C, List of documents; appendix D, Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems; appendix E, Explanations of position of members which requested that they be included in the final report; and appendix F, Proposed amendments to the CFS rules of procedure.

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Report on the main decisions and policy recommendations of the Committee on World Food Security

Note by the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Paragraph 8

At the end of the paragraph, *insert*

At its forty-first session, the Committee requested that the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, consider, endorse and ensure the wide dissemination of the Principles to all relevant United Nations organizations and agencies.

* A/70/50.

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Item 107 of the preliminary list*
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Action against gender-related killing of women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	2
II.	Action by Member States	2
	A. Preventive measures	2
	B. Victim issues	4
	C. Criminal justice responses	6
	D. Data collection and analysis	8
III.	Action by relevant entities of the United Nations system	9
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	13

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I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/191 on taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls. It provides information on measures taken by a number of Member States to prevent such killing, to protect and support victims, to improve criminal justice responses and to enhance data collection and analysis. The examples provided were selected to illustrate different types of measures. The report also highlights activities by relevant United Nations entities in support of these efforts, including technical assistance and advocacy. The report draws on contributions by relevant United Nations entities, recent country-specific reports by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and information collected by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) from Member States and other stakeholders for the preparation of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls, held in Bangkok from 11 to 13 November 2014.[1]

2. The concept of gender-related killing is generally understood to refer to the intentional murder of women and girls because of their gender. In her report of 2012, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences identified such killing as the extreme manifestation of violence against women, often representing the final event of an extended and ignored continuum of violence.[2] She distinguished active or direct forms of gender-related killing from passive or indirect forms. Direct forms include killing as a result of intimate partner violence, sorcery/witchcraft-related killing, honour-related killing, armed conflict-related killing, dowry-related killing, gender identity- and sexual orientation-related killing, and ethnic- and indigenous identity-related killing. Indirect forms encompass deaths due to poorly conducted or clandestine abortions, maternal mortality, deaths from harmful practices, deaths linked to human trafficking, drug dealing, organized crime- and gang-related activities, the death of girls or women from simple neglect, through starvation or ill-treatment, and deliberate acts or omissions by the State.[3]

II. Action by Member States

A. Preventive measures

3. Gender-related killing of women and girls is often the ultimate step in a continuum of violence that has progressively escalated. To effectively prevent gender-related killing, comprehensive approaches are therefore required that also

[1] Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on gender-related killing of women and girls: promising practices, challenges and practical recommendations (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2) and conference room papers on national measures taken to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/CRP.1), information on gender-related killing of women and girls provided by civil society organizations and academia (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/CRP.2) and criminalization of gender-related killing of women and girls (UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/CRP.3).

[2] A/HRC/20/16, para. 15.

[3] Ibid., para. 16.

target related forms of violence against women and girls. Preventing violence can range from stopping violence from reoccurring to stopping it from happening in the first place, and effective interventions vary accordingly. The criminalization of and timely responses to forms of violence that precede the killing can also have a preventive impact. Relevant measures adopted by States include reforms of legislative, policy and institutional frameworks, programmes to raise awareness and broader educational initiatives to address gender inequality as the basis of violence against women.

4. Many countries have adopted integrated legal and policy frameworks or have reformed criminal and other areas of law to address violence against women. However, existing laws are often limited to certain types of violence and do not cover discrimination or other forms and circumstances of violence connected with gender-related killing. Further challenges include a disconnect between different areas of law dealing with various forms of violence in an isolated way and a lack of human and financial resources for national strategies, plans or programmes.[4]

5. Several States developed policy frameworks, strategies and action plans on violence against women at the national and local level. For example, in Germany, the Second Action Plan of the Federal Government to Combat Violence against Women encompasses over 130 measures and programmes, implemented in cooperation between State institutions and non-governmental support services. In Spain, the National Strategy for the Eradication of Violence Against Women (2013-2016) provides specific measures to prevent and address different forms of violence. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, relevant measures were taken on the basis of the strategy entitled "Call to end violence against women and girls", which applies to England and is accompanied by an annual action plan.

6. Some Member States established laws, policies and programmes to address specific forms of gender-based violence. Relevant examples include the Belgian national action plan to combat intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence such as honour-related violence and female genital mutilation, the Family Violence Act (Law 20.666) of Chile, the National Programme on the Prevention of Family Violence of Slovenia and Turkey's National Action Plan on Combating Domestic Violence, which aims at fostering improvements in the area of legislation. The Government of India is considering recommendations by the Law Commission of India, which issued a suggested legal framework in 2012 to prevent interference with freedom of matrimonial alliance in the name of honour and tradition. In Papua New Guinea, sorcery-related killings are treated as homicides and dealt with through the Criminal Code, while the Sorcery Act is reportedly rarely used and was found to be ineffective by the Constitutional and Law Reform Commission, which recommended that it be repealed.

7. Competent and qualified institutions and strong coordination mechanisms are of crucial importance in preventing gender-related killing of women and girls. In several Member States, the police play a specific role in prevention, including situational prevention, such as patrols, supervising and monitoring, as well as involvement in social prevention. In some States, the police has specialized expertise on prevention, assistance and protection of women victims of violence or

[4] See UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2, pp. 10 and 11.

participates in the training of young leaders, in awareness-raising campaigns and in forming coalitions with national and local stakeholders.

8. Many States organized public awareness-raising and education campaigns with respect to gender-sensitive policy frameworks. In Bangladesh, the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Information's Press Institute launched awareness-raising campaigns, published different materials and provided a wide range of training to various institutions, State agencies, the media and the general population. Belgium disseminated information and carried out awareness-raising measures to overcome gender stereotypes, while in Chile the national service for women implemented public and institutional education and awareness-raising programmes. Ecuador launched the campaign "No estás sola. ¡Denuncia!", which included the organization of an academic forum on a human rights-based approach to gender equality and an event to provide information on free legal advice and psychosocial care. Italy and Spain developed specific initiatives to prevent violence against women through information and awareness-raising campaigns for the public and in the workplace. In the United Kingdom, the national prevention campaign "This is abuse" was launched to encourage teenagers to rethink their views about rape, consent and abuse.

9. Some States launched broader initiatives aiming at eliminating gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and other root causes of violence against women. For example, Angola reported on actions taken to support and guarantee equal treatment to women employees and to increase female employment in management positions. Japan implemented practical actions and concrete policy measures under its Third Basic Plan for Gender Equality, and Jordan took measures to enhance partnerships and coordination between governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the area of family affairs.

B. Victim issues

10. In accordance with applicable national and international law, States have the duty to provide legal protection, appropriate remedies, reparation and compensation to victims of gender-related killing and other forms of violence against women. In view of the link between protracted violence and gender-related killing, it is crucial to provide adequate protection, support and assistance to victims as early as possible in order to avoid further degeneration of violence suffered. In line with the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,[5] adopted by the General Assembly in 1985, the definition of the term "victims" should also include members of the immediate family or dependents of the direct victim who require protection, assistance and support, reparation and compensation, especially in cases of gender-related killing of women and girls.

11. Member States provide different levels and types of essential services to assist, support and protect victims of violence against women and girls. For example, Angola adopted measures aimed at re-establishing the victim's emotional balance and at ensuring individual and social welfare. Chile established centres providing to victims free psychological, social and legal assistance, as well as rehabilitative

[5] General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

programmes. Mexico implemented a project to establish and improve shelters for women victims of violence throughout the country, and Turkey established violence prevention and monitoring centres throughout the country, providing support and protection services.

12. In a number of countries, the protection of women from violence was made a priority for the police and other relevant agencies. One example is the policy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on violence in relationships which requires swift police intervention to protect victims. In Spain, instruments were put in place to promote inter-agency collaboration on the protection of victims from gender-based violence, including a cooperation protocol between the local and the national police forces to protect victims more effectively.

13. A number of initiatives to support and assist victims make use of electronic technologies. Germany, for example, launched a toll-free multilingual nationwide telephone hotline offering counselling and advice on all forms of violence against women, while Chile and Turkey developed and implemented programmes based on security button systems ("panic buttons"), which send emergency signals to the nearest police unit, including location data.

14. Some countries adopted measures to meet the rights and needs of family members, dependents or other indirect victims of gender-related killing of women and girls. Spain, for example, is implementing a project on reparation for victims and the attenuation of traumatic effect of violence suffered, which guarantees protection to indirect victims such as children, members of the immediate family and dependents of the victim. In the United Kingdom, bereaved families are entitled to enhanced services from criminal justice agencies, and close relatives of a victim of serious crime are also entitled to make a victim personal statement to the police at any time prior to a convicted offender being sentenced.

15. Some countries have established programmes to protect women from specific forms of violence, including trafficking in persons or female genital mutilation. This is of particular relevance in view of the consideration, as explained by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, that gender-related killing of women and girls includes passive and indirect forms of killing, such as deaths from harmful practices or deaths linked to human trafficking, drug dealing, organized crime and gang-related activities.[6] In Australia, for example, a victim support programme provides individualized case management support and visa arrangements so that suspected victims and witnesses of human trafficking and slavery can remain in the country and support the investigation and prosecution of offences. Chile established a temporary residential accommodation where health services, counselling and psychological care are provided to victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Belgium has adopted a holistic approach to addressing female genital mutilation, in cooperation with civil society organizations, with particular attention to prevention and comprehensive care for victims. In Bangladesh, the Acid Control Act prescribes the provision of treatment and legal aid, as well as the establishment of a rehabilitation centre, for the victims of acid attacks.[7]

[6] A/HRC/20/16, para. 16.

[7] A/HRC/26/38/Add.2, para. 69.

C. Criminal justice responses

16. Criminal justice responses to gender-related killing of women and girls require not only adequate criminal legislation but also adequate capacity to investigate and prosecute this crime in order to hold perpetrators accountable and end impunity. Member States have taken a variety of measures to reform their criminal law and criminal procedures, establish special units within criminal justice institutions, build the capacity of criminal justice officials and enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation with other relevant actors.

17. A number of States have criminalized gender-related killing of women and girls. Some have done so by creating specific criminal offences dealing with different forms of gender-related killing. Others have included gender-related aggravating circumstances in existing definitions of aggravated homicide or as general aggravating circumstances of crime. In some States, the killing of the victim is considered an aggravating circumstance in offences concerning gender-based violence. The common feature of these different ways to criminalize the gender-related killing of women and girls is that the penalties are higher than those provided for simple forms of homicide.[8] Many countries, however, continue to use existing gender-neutral criminal law provisions on homicide and apply them equally to men and women.

18. Several Latin American countries have recently introduced in their penal codes the specific criminal offence of "femicide" or "feminicide". Although the elements of the criminal offences vary widely, most of the provisions envisage a number of factual circumstances in addition to the act of killing or causing the death of a woman. In many countries, this includes the existence of a relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, which may range from marriage and de facto partnership to family relations, or relationships of subordination, dependence or superiority, including in the context of employment or education. Relevant circumstances also concern previous acts of violence committed by the perpetrator against the victim before the killing or the particularly cruel or violent way the killing occurred and whether it was accompanied by related acts, such as mutilation or necrophilia. Other circumstances focus on the victim and deal with her physical or psychological vulnerability, age or pregnancy, or relate to other factors, such as the presence of the children or other family members during the crime.[9]

19. Criminal law provisions on gender-related killing are not limited to Latin America. In many jurisdictions in different regions, gender-related elements may be found in the definition of aggravated homicide or among general aggravating circumstances that apply not only to homicide but also to other offences. Such elements relate to the relationship between victim and perpetrator, to previous violence by the perpetrator, to the killing and related acts or to the victim. Although such provisions contain elements that are also found in the specific offences concerning gender-related killing of women and girls, most of these provisions are less comprehensive than the specific offences and are not woman-specific.[10] In some jurisdictions, gender-related killing is addressed through specific offences

[8] UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/CRP.3, para. 51.

[9] Ibid., paras. 8-13.

[10] Ibid., paras. 23-30.

concerning gender-based or family violence, in which causing the death of the victim is an aggravating factor. These provisions differ from other ways of criminalizing gender-related killing of women and girls, because their scope is limited to specific forms of violence that can lead to killing and they primarily protect physical and sexual integrity and not the life of women and girls.

20. Several promising practices can be identified with regard to the criminal procedure. In many countries, violence in the family or against a partner is considered a public offence that does not require the complaint of the victim. In others, prosecuting authorities are required to continue criminal proceedings despite the victim's withdrawal of the complaint in cases of domestic violence. In a third group of countries, the prosecutor retains a margin of discretion in deciding whether to pursue criminal proceedings in cases of domestic violence. Some legal systems provide the police with special powers in cases of domestic violence, such as the permission to enter the home without a warrant, to temporarily ban the offender from the home or to arrest the suspect to protect the victims and/or to prevent future assault. In other instances, judges can also issue urgent court decisions ex parte on probable cause within a day.[11] With regard to pretrial detention, some countries have even introduced a presumption of dangerousness in cases of alleged sex offenders or of violence perpetrated in gang-related activities, which is aimed at promoting victim safety but requires adequate safeguards to ensure that pretrial detention remains a measure of last resort in line with the principle of minimum intervention.[12]

21. Prosecutors and judges may play a fundamental role in extending criminal law provisions that do not yet cover all forms of violence that may result in gender-related killing of women and girls. For example, although marital rape is not criminalized in the Solomon Islands, a case of marital rape was prosecuted on the basis of a broader interpretation of the legal definition of rape in the Criminal Code.[13]

22. Specialized capacity is a crucial element for the effective criminal justice responses to violence against women and girls, including gender-related killing. Several States established special units within the police with expertise on gender-based violence in its different manifestations. In some countries, specialized expertise is also available within the prosecution service or even in the judiciary. Relevant examples include the police hate crimes units established in Canada and the provincial domestic violence police units in Italy. In Sweden, local public prosecution offices include specialists on violence in close relationships, while in Jordan, a specialized judicial body was established within the High Criminal Court to consider cases of violence allegedly involving honour.

23. Several countries provide specific training to police and prosecutors to build their capacity to respond to violent offences that may include or lead to gender-related killing. Slovenia implemented a country-wide training project for police officers and criminal investigators to enhance the quality of their responses to family violence and to raise public awareness of the police procedure in cases of

[11] See UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2, para. 37.

[12] See the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) (General Assembly resolution 45/110, annex), rule 2.6.

[13] See A/HRC/23/49/Add.1, para. 73.

family violence. In Sweden, prosecutors receive training on how to deal with offences that occur within intimate relationships, honour-related violence and offences against children.

24. Another key factor in ensuring effective criminal justice responses to gender-related killing of women and girls is coordination between criminal justice agencies and cooperation with other governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. In Peru, an intersectoral body was established within the framework of the National Programme against Family Violence and Sexual Abuse and developed inter-agency arrangements to provide better care in cases of feminicide. In Spain, law enforcement bodies and judicial organs concluded a protocol on coordination in the area of violence against women. In Canada, a number of police authorities developed good practices relating to information-sharing, file management, file coordination and disclosure in cases of unresolved homicides and missing persons, with those good practices being shared with other investigative units or replicated in other parts of the country.

D. Data collection and analysis

25. Collection, analysis and sharing of relevant data is crucial for effective and coordinated measures to prevent, investigate and prosecute gender-related killing of women. In order to accomplish these goals, "detailed data are required to gauge the magnitude and dimensions of the problem, to establish baselines, to identify groups at high risk, to focus intervention and prevention efforts where they are needed most, to monitor change over time, to assess the effectiveness of interventions and to address the harm to victims of violence".[14] In this regard, the comparability and availability of precise statistics is key to defining the spectrum of gender-related killing in its different manifestations, causes and consequences.

26. Data and information on gender-related killing of women are available in a number of countries, predominantly drawn from administrative records of law enforcement and judicial sources. Some countries have also used population-based sources of information such as victimization, demographic and health surveys to estimate women's exposure to partner and non-partner violence. However, victimization surveys and other population-based sources, because of their nature, do not lend themselves to the collection of information on homicides. Even data from administrative records are limited, since these records often do not distinguish between the various motivations and circumstances of the crime and do not indicate specific categories and contexts of intentional killings. Further challenges include underreporting and insufficient use of other data sources such as medical reports, as well as a lack of comparability and other difficulties arising from differences in methodologies, discrepancies in the definition of the concept of gender-related killing and ineffective coordination among responsible agencies.[15]

27. Available statistics show how domestic and intimate partner/family-related killings are the largest cause of female homicides. In 2012, almost half of all female victims of murder worldwide (47 per cent, or 43,600 women) were killed by a

[14] United Nations, *Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence Against Women: Statistical Surveys* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.XVII.7).

[15] See UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/2, para. 24.

family member or intimate partner, compared to 6 per cent (20,000) of male homicide victims.[16] This trend is also reflected at the national level. For example, data collected in Canada for 2012 indicated that 63 per cent of the victims killed by a family member and 83 per cent of those killed by an intimate partner were female.[17] In Italy, the percentage of women murdered increased between 2011 and 2013, despite a drop in the total number of homicides in the same period, and most violent acts against women took place in the framework of family/emotional relationships.[18] In Peru, 609 women had been victims of the offence of "feminicide" between 2009 and 2013, of which 74.9 per cent were killed by a current or a former intimate partner and 13.5 per cent by a family member.[19] In Honduras, 629 cases of "femicide" were registered in 2013 alone.[20]

28. Some States collect disaggregated data that may shed light on specific forms of gender-related killing. In Canada, the homicide rate of aboriginal females was almost seven times higher than that for non-Aboriginal victims. In Denmark and other countries, data are collected on cases of honour-related killing. Dowry-related murders continue to be a widespread practice in some South-Asian countries. For example, over 8,000 such cases were reported in India every year in the period 2008-2012. In Honduras, deaths linked to drug trafficking and gang-related activities are widespread, as it is reported that 60 per cent of registered cases of femicide are linked to organized crime, in the context of which women and girls are often killed in acts of vengeance between gangs, and victim's bodies reveal acts of mutilation and torture.[21]

III. Action by relevant entities of the United Nations system

29. Following the adoption of General Assembly resolution 68/191, several entities of the United Nations system joined forces to promote international action against gender-related killing of women and girls. UNODC, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), convened the meeting of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls held in Bangkok on 11-13 November 2014. The meeting was attended by experts from 31 Member States, as well as observers from the State of Palestine, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN-Women, UNFPA, the Academic Council on the United Nations System, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the College for Criminal Law Science of Beijing Normal University, the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy, the International Council of Women, the Organization of American States, Soroptimist International and the World Society of Victimology.

[16] See UNODC, *Global Study on Homicide, 2013: Trends, Contexts, Data* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 14.IV.1) pp. 49-56.

[17] See UNODC/CCPCJ/EG.8/2014/CRP.1, para 46.

[18] Ibid., para. 50.

[19] Ibid., para. 52.

[20] A/HRC/29/27/Add.1, para. 14.

[21] A/HRC/29/27/Add.1, paras. 14-16.

30. The meeting discussed promising practices and made a number of practical recommendations on ways and means to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, which were considered by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-fourth session held in May 2015. The discussion and conclusions of the meeting focused on data collection and analysis, prevention, investigation, prosecution and sanctions, as well as on victim issues. The meeting recognized that gender-related killing of women and girls often represented the final event of a continuum of violence, given the high level of impunity and lack of accountability in such cases. Participants stressed the importance of adopting and implementing relevant laws, policies, procedures and practices at all levels, in line with international human rights law and making use of international standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. Close cooperation with civil society and the engagement of stakeholders such as religious leaders, women's organizations, community leaders, human rights defenders, businesses and sports teams were mentioned as important elements of promising, innovative initiatives to prevent gender-related killing of women and girls.

31. At its twenty-fourth session (18-22 May 2015), the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended a draft resolution entitled "Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls" for adoption by the General Assembly at its seventieth session. In the draft resolution the General Assembly is to take note with appreciation of the recommendations of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls, and to call for further action by Member States and the United Nations system to prevent and address such killing and related forms of violence. Furthermore, UNODC and other relevant United Nations entities and agencies are encouraged to continue raising awareness and providing support to Member States, including with regard to collecting, disaggregating, analysing and reporting data on gender-related killing of women and girls. In particular, UNODC is requested to prepare, in collaboration with Member States, an analytical study on gender-related killing of women and girls at the global level, containing disaggregated data, including from relevant stakeholders, on this phenomenon to illustrate its different forms and patterns.

32. In addition to its activities aimed at strengthening and improving the crime prevention and criminal justice response of countries to violence against women and girls, UNODC supports international efforts to improve the accuracy, consistency and comparability of statistics on crime and the criminal justice system. A key achievement with relevance to gender-related killing is the newly developed International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), which provides a common classification framework for crime data from administrative sources and victimization surveys and an analytical framework at the country level. Based on a behavioural description of crime types, it provides a common framework of definitions to compare statistical data from different criminal justice institutions and jurisdictions and may facilitate the harmonization of data collection and dissemination at the national and international levels. ICCS covers "femicide" as a form of intentional homicide, but it also allows for additional disaggregation in order to provide information on specific forms of gender-related killing. That disaggregation includes gender-based motives and other event-related factors, as well as the situational context of intentional homicide, including its occurrence in

the context of the family or an intimate partnership or as a result of violence specifically targeting women because of their gender.

33. The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences addressed the issue of gender-related killing of women and girls in her country missions and a number of specific activities. In October 2011, she convened in New York an expert group meeting on this subject, which brought together 25 experts from academia, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies and bodies with technical and practical expertise on and experience in working on violence against women.[22] The outcome of that meeting informed her 2012 thematic report,[23] which examined different forms of gender-related killing of women, whether they occur in the family or the community or are perpetrated or condoned by the State. The report highlighted how the prevalence of different manifestations of such killing is increasing and argued that such killings are not isolated incidents which arise suddenly and unexpectedly, but are the ultimate act of violence against women which is experienced in a continuum of violence. The report provided an overview of the global trends and manifestations of gender-related killings of women and argued that those manifestations are culturally and socially embedded and continue to be accepted, tolerated or justified, with impunity as the norm. It underlined States' responsibility to act with due diligence in the promotion and protection of women's rights and made a number of recommendations to address existing gaps in States' responses to gender-related killing of women and girls.

34. At the regional level, UN-Women, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, developed the Latin American model protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women.[24] This comprehensive and interdisciplinary tool provides practical guidelines for the judiciary, prosecutors, police and forensic institutions concerning investigation and prosecution of violent deaths of women. Technical assistance to support the adaptation and implementation of the protocol at the national level is provided by UN-Women and other United Nations entities in several Latin American countries.

35. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UN-Women have conducted several advocacy and awareness-raising activities to disseminate and promote the use of the Latin American model protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women. In addition to national events and meetings with key stakeholders in Colombia and Panama, the model protocol was presented to and welcomed by a number of regional bodies, including the Conference of States Parties to the inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the General Assembly of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors, the Central American Integration System and the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs of Central America. The Human Rights Council recognized the model protocol as a good and promising practice and the intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing

[22] A/HRC/20/16/Add.4.

[23] A/HRC/20/16.

[24] Available at www.unodc.org/documents/justice-and-prison-reform/Expert-group-meeting-Bangkok/ProtocoloLatinoamericanoDeInvestigacion.pdf.

of women and girls concluded that the model protocol could be considered as a model for action at the national and international levels.

36. In Brazil and Colombia, UN-Women provided legislative assistance to ensure an adequate legal basis for action against gender-related killing of women and girls. In Brazil, UN-Women organized a series of workshops aimed at sharing knowledge, concepts and visions regarding "femicide".

37. In Mexico, UN-Women carried out an analysis of penal codes and civil laws with a view to identifying elements that discriminate against women and supporting decision-makers in addressing all forms of violence against women, including gender-related killing. UN-Women conducted a number of studies with current data on femicide in the country and prepared a protocol on how to investigate the crime of homicide with a gender perspective. UNODC complemented those efforts by working with police in order to strengthen investigation processes in cases of "feminicide" and improving investigation protocols, based on a gender perspective. In the states of Durango and Coahuila, UNODC supported the development of gender-disaggregated criminal justice data and started supporting the State of Mexico in analysing the causes of femicide.

38. Efforts to raise awareness concerning different forms of gender-related killing continued in other regions. In Papua New Guinea, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in awareness-raising events on violence against women and provided technical assistance to the Government to end killings of individuals accused of sorcery and witchcraft, providing, in collaboration with Oxfam and the Ombudsman Commission, human rights trainings to local government officials. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan supported outreach activities across that country, hosting debates, radio programmes and workshops, raising awareness of the urgent need to address violence against women and girls.

39. UNFPA conducted advocacy campaigns in several countries and at the global level to highlight the rising incidence of sex selection that may lead to gender-related killing of girls before they are born. UNFPA worked on the issue of sex selection and birth controls, fostering gender discrimination-free policies and strategies. Technical assistance and cooperation was provided in that regard to governments and local institutions in India, Nepal, Viet Nam and China to support the implementation of legislations and programmes aimed at adopting long-term measures to enhance gender equality.

40. Particular forms of gender-related killing occur in conflict and post-conflict countries, where United Nations peace operations supported efforts to hold perpetrators accountable. Technical support and advice have been provided to help establish and operationalize a special court for the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence in Liberia and to assist the transitional authorities in the Central African Republic in establishing a special criminal court to address the most serious crimes, including sexual and gender-based violence. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Legal staff of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is deployed in prosecution support cells, which support the military justice authorities in the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violent crimes. In 2013, 234 judgements were rendered with their support, 85 of which were related to sexual violence.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

41. Drawing on the conclusions and recommendations endorsed by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on gender-related killing of women and girls held in Bangkok in November 2014, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following practical measures, for action by Member States to more effectively prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls:

(a) Consider ways to enhance international cooperation in these cases, including by ratifying and implementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Protocols thereto, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and their follow-up mechanisms;

(b) Consider translating and disseminating the Latin American model protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, to be used as a model for regional and country-level adaptation, and training justice officials on its contents and use, in collaboration with relevant entities of the United Nations system;

(c) Review, evaluate and update national laws to effectively address gender-related killing of women, including, where appropriate, by providing for specific offences or aggravating circumstances and by reviewing legislation to ensure that it does not include discriminating factors — "passion", "violent emotion", "honour" or "provocation" — that allow perpetrators to escape criminal responsibility;

(d) Strengthen the capacity of criminal justice institutions to prevent, investigate, prosecute, punish and remedy gender-related killing of women, including by:

(i) Assessing the effectiveness of laws;

(ii) Implementing training programmes and awareness campaigns;

(iii) Identifying gender stereotypes and discrimination within institutions, providing adequate sanctions for discrimination, sexual misconduct and other misconduct, and ensuring that measures are taken to address them;

(iv) Promoting the recruitment, employment and appropriate working conditions of women in the legal and law enforcement professions, especially at the decision-making level;

(e) Promote and enhance coordination, at all levels of government, between institutions mandated to prevent, investigate, prosecute, punish and remedy gender-related killing of women, as well as coordination with other relevant sectors,

including civil society and the education, health, social services and security sectors;

(f) Provide sufficient human, technical and financial resources for the implementation of laws, policies, procedures and practices to prevent and respond to gender-related killing of women, including by adopting gender-sensitive budget policies, as well as monitoring and accountability procedures;

(g) Monitor the implementation of laws, policies, procedures and practices and gender-sensitive budget policies to prevent and respond to gender-related killing of women, and evaluate their effectiveness and impact, including from a gender perspective, through transparent, participatory and inclusive processes;

(h) Continue and enhance international cooperation and technical assistance to address capacity gaps and the exchange of information on the implementation of promising practices to prevent and address gender-related killing of women, with the support of relevant United Nations entities and competent regional institutions and civil society, including academic and research institutions.

Data collection and analysis

(i) Identify elements that could be used at the national and international levels to characterize and classify forms of gender-related killing of women, in particular for statistical purposes;

(j) Strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of qualitative and quantitative data on gender-related killing of women and other forms of violence against women, focusing on factors such as age, racial and ethnic origin, criminal history of perpetrators, the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator, modus operandi, context and motive, taking special care to include reports on violence in rural and marginalized areas and the situation of specific groups of women and victims;

(k) Collect and analyse data in an integrated manner to consider the links between gender-related killing and different forms of violence against women, such as human trafficking or harmful practices;

(l) Collect and analyse data on indirect forms of gender-related killing of women, such as deaths due to poorly conducted and clandestine abortions; maternal mortality; deaths from harmful practices; deaths linked to human trafficking, drug dealing, organized crime and gang-related activities; the death of girls from simple neglect, through starvation or ill-treatment; and deliberate acts of omission by the State;

(m) Collect and publish official data and information regularly and transparently, in a format that responds to the needs of a variety of audiences, while respecting confidentiality and preserving the safety and privacy of the victims; and consider the provision of technical assistance in this regard as a matter of priority;

(n) Analyse data from a gender perspective, involving, to the extent possible, relevant government agencies, civil society, academia, victims' representatives and the international community;

(o) Provide adequate human and financial resources for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on gender-related killing of women;

(p) Provide regular and institutionalized training to relevant personnel on technical and ethical aspects of the collection, analysis and dissemination of data on gender-related killing of women.

Prevention

(q) Promote changes in social norms and attitudes harmful to women through early and continuous educational programmes and awareness-raising and by conducting or encouraging work with schools and local communities;

(r) Encourage news media to adopt codes of ethics regarding gender-sensitive reporting on violence against women cases, to ensure that victims' dignity and privacy is respected and to avoid the dissemination of harmful and degrading gender stereotypes, as well as to promote gender equality and non-discrimination;

(s) Adopt legislation, policies and measures to prevent lethal risks to women victims of violence and to protect victims and witnesses, including simple, quick and accessible protection and restraining or barring orders, adequate and targeted risk assessment and management strategies, and confidential 24/7 hotlines, shelters or other measures to facilitate access to safety, assistance and support; such protective measures should not be dependent on the initiation of a criminal case;

(t) Promote women's safety audits in order to create a safer urban environment, for example, improved street and underpass lighting and more frequent police patrols in areas prone to molestation of women;

(u) Promote strategies and measures by relevant authorities and civil society to encourage the reporting and early detection of violence that may result in gender-related killing of women;

(v) Regulate the possession, use and storage of firearms by violent offenders, including by providing for ownership and possession restrictions, in particular where violence against women has been reported, and carry out awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of exposure to firearms in domestic disputes;

(w) Review, evaluate and update criminal and civil laws in order to ensure that all forms of violence against women are penalized and prohibited and, if not, to adopt measures to do so, in order to prevent such violence from escalating into gender-related killing of women;

(x) Promote and facilitate coordination among government agencies and courts responsible for different areas of law, such as family law, civil law, criminal law and immigration law, in order to coherently prevent and address violence that could lead to gender-related killing of women;

(y) Promote the rehabilitation and re-education of perpetrators, including by developing and evaluating treatment and reintegration, rehabilitation and education programmes that prioritize the safety of the victims;

(z) Ensure the provision of adequate human and financial resources for the prevention of gender-related killing of women and for the monitoring and evaluation of results;

(aa) Evaluate prevention programmes and interventions to build a knowledge base on what works to prevent violence against women.

Investigation, prosecution and sanctions

(bb) Adopt or review criminal policies, including investigatory and prosecutorial policies, to address potential risk factors that can lead to lethal violence against women;

(cc) Ensure that competent authorities investigate, prosecute and sanction each case of gender-related killing of women with due diligence and without delay;

(dd) Ensure that women have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice, including, where relevant, legal aid, language support services and witness protection;

(ee) Minimize the risk of secondary victimization during criminal investigations, prosecutions and trials, inter alia, through testimonial aids and assistance for victims and witnesses;

(ff) When relevant, consider adopting an integrated, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approach to the investigation of gender-related killing of women, and promote and institutionalize close collaboration and appropriate information-sharing among institutions involved in the investigation of gender-related killing of women, respecting the victim's right to privacy;

(gg) Establish, where appropriate, specialized and multidisciplinary units within the police, provide prosecution services with specific expertise and sufficient human and financial resources and encourage the courts to gain specific expertise;

(hh) Develop and disseminate specialized manuals and protocols and provide regular and institutionalized training to officials involved in the investigation, prosecution and sanction of gender-related killing of women so as to ensure that they understand the gendered nature of violence, respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of the victims and conduct accountable and effective investigations and prosecutions;

(ii) Develop appropriate mechanisms and enhance capacities for forensic investigations to identify human remains and missing persons, such as centres for missing persons and DNA databases, to support the prosecution of gender-related killing of women;

(jj) Monitor and sanction criminal justice officials (police, prosecutors, interpreters and court officials) who deny women access to justice, including, for example, those who discriminate against women, refuse to apply legislation protecting women's rights or do not exercise due diligence in their official duties in cases involving violence against women, in particular gender-related killing of women;

(kk) Taking into account the responsibility of States to define and sanction criminal offences, ensure that appropriate sanctions for perpetrators of gender-related killing of women are in place that are proportionate to the gravity of the offence;

(ll) Provide adequate human and financial resources for the investigation and prosecution of gender-related killing of women.

Victim support and assistance

(mm) Make respect for the cultural identity, ethnicity, social origin and language of victims of gender-related killing of women an integral part of the legal framework and institutional policies and practices;

(nn) Ensure that the needs of women in vulnerable conditions are addressed, including those of elderly women, rural women, indigenous women, foreign women, immigrant women in irregular situations, women victims of human trafficking, children of women victims of violence, women with disabilities and women in armed conflict;

(oo) Ensure that laws, policies and practices concerning child victims and witnesses are child-sensitive and respect the rights of the child;

(pp) Protect and support victims, drawing on the important role of civil society and ensuring effective cooperation between all relevant State agencies, including, where appropriate, the judiciary, prosecution services, law enforcement agencies and local and regional authorities;

(qq) Ensure that health and other social services are available to the victims, independent of their cooperation with the justice system;

(rr) Ensure that adequate and effective judicial mechanisms are available to all victims to allow them to access justice and to enable them to obtain redress for harm suffered;

(ss) Ensure that victims are provided with prompt and accurate information regarding their rights and available measures for protection, support, assistance and judicial mechanisms to obtain redress, in a way that takes into account the diversity of their language, ethnicity, race, social and economic origin, including by implementing public information campaigns;

(tt) Enable victims to participate in the criminal proceedings, taking into account their dignity, well-being and safety, while respecting the legal rights of defendants and to prepare victims for social reintegration;

(uu) Ensure the availability of adequate reparations, including restitution and compensation, in criminal, civil and administrative proceedings, that respond to the diverse needs of victims, in accordance with national law;

(vv) Provide adequate human and financial resources to guarantee the rights of victims of gender-related killing of women.

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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/192, on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons. It summarizes the activities undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as the efforts of Member States and the entities of the United Nations system towards implementing resolution 68/192. It includes information on the status of ratifications or accessions to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as on efforts made by all stakeholders to further enhance the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 64/293. The report further provides an update on the status and work of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as information on the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* issued in 2014 by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and information on the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and on awareness-raising campaigns, in particular the designated World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

* A/70/50.

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Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Status of ratification of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and progress by Member States towards criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons	3
III.	Ensuring the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons	4
	A. Measures reported by Member States, including with regard to prevention and reducing vulnerability of people to becoming victims of trafficking in persons	4
	B. Activities undertaken within the United Nations system and member agencies of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons	8
	C. Towards full implementation: appraisal and way forward	12
	D. Post-2015 development agenda	13
IV.	*Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*: update on research and trend analysis	14
V.	Developments relating to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children	15
VI.	Activities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons	16
VII.	Raising awareness: activities to mark 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons	17
VIII.	Resource situation of the United Nations system, in particular of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with regard to combating trafficking in persons	18
IX.	Recommendations	19

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/192, on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons, the General Assembly called upon Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons, including through addressing the various factors that made people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and increasing prevention efforts. The Assembly urged Member States, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal. In resolution 64/293, the Assembly recognized the need to develop a global plan of action against trafficking in persons that would promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses to fight trafficking in persons in all areas of the "4Ps" (prevention of trafficking in persons, protection of and assistance to trafficking victims, prosecution of traffickers, and strengthening of partnerships against trafficking in persons). The Global Plan of Action also created the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, tasked the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) with biennial reporting on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons, and strengthened the role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.

2. In its resolution 68/192, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of that resolution to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. No extrabudgetary resources were made available to the Secretariat for that purpose prior to the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly. Nevertheless, since extrabudgetary funds could be identified in 2015, a report on the implementation has been prepared for consideration by the Assembly at its seventieth session.

3. The present report is based, inter alia, on information received from Member States and entities of the United Nations system, as well as member agencies of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons. It covers the period from the adoption of resolution 68/192 on 18 December 2013 to 1 May 2015.

II. Status of ratification of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and progress by Member States towards criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons

4. In its resolution 68/192, the General Assembly urged Member States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. During the reporting period, five States became States parties to the Organized Crime Convention: Sierra Leone (12 August 2014), Eritrea (25 September 2014), Tonga (3 October 2014), Barbados (11 November 2014) and Samoa (17 December 2014). As of 1 May 2015, there were 185 States parties to the Convention. During the reporting period, seven States became parties to the Trafficking in Persons

Protocol: Sierra Leone (12 August 2014), Afghanistan (15 August 2014), Angola (19 September 2014), Eritrea (25 September 2014), Barbados (11 November 2014), Sudan (2 December 2014) and Czech Republic (17 December 2014). As of 1 May 2015, there were 166 State parties to the Protocol.

5. Also in resolution 68/192, the General Assembly called upon Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all of its forms, including for labour exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children, including by tourists, to condemn those practices, and to investigate, prosecute and penalize traffickers and intermediaries. According to the 2014 *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* of UNODC, as of August 2014, 85 per cent of countries considered in the report had criminalized all aspects of trafficking in persons explicitly listed in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. About 10 per cent had partial legislation. Five per cent of the countries did not have any offence in their legislation that specifically criminalized trafficking in persons. The report also showed that the level of convictions globally for trafficking in persons remained low. Between 2010 and 2012, about 40 per cent of countries covered by the report had fewer than 10 convictions per year. About 15 per cent of countries did not report a single conviction.

III. Ensuring the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

A. Measures reported by Member States, including with regard to prevention and reducing the vulnerability of people to becoming victims of trafficking in persons

6. On 6 February 2015, UNODC circulated a note verbale in which Member States were requested to provide information on their efforts to address various dimensions of trafficking in persons, including vulnerability, prevention and criminalization, in particular of labour exploitation and commercial sexual exploitation of children, as well as the consideration of trafficking in persons in the context of relevant high-level policy discussions, including in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. By 1 May 2015, the following States had submitted responses to the questionnaire: Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Finland, Germany, Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America. The Holy See, a State party to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol with permanent observer status to the United Nations, also responded to the questionnaire.

Legislation

7. In their responses, States acknowledged the importance of a robust legal framework in the fight against trafficking in persons, in line with international standards.

8. Several States highlighted recent legislative efforts undertaken during the reporting period. For instance, the United Kingdom reported on the Modern Slavery Act 2015, which strengthened existing national legislation and contained a new requirement for companies of a certain size to disclose measures aimed at combating trafficking in persons in the supply chain. Singapore, inter alia, reported on the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, which took effect on 1 March 2015 and was aimed at improving the prosecution of trafficking cases and victim protection measures, including in camera proceedings in cases involving child victims. Colombia reported on the adoption of Decree No. 1069 of 2014 to regulate the provision of assistance to trafficking victims, which contained a dedicated chapter on the protection of child and adolescent victims. Belarus reported on amendments to its law on combating human trafficking and its criminal code, with a view to improving the identification and protection of trafficking victims.

Prevention

9. In its resolution 68/192, the Assembly urged Member States to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action. The Assembly also called upon Member States to increase and support prevention efforts to combat trafficking in persons by focusing on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons.

10. All responding States reported on their continued efforts to raise awareness of trafficking in persons, including through information campaigns, public service announcements, social media, hotlines, leaflets, exhibitions and films. Many of those activities took place in cooperation with the private sector, civil society and international organizations.

11. States also reported on activities specifically aimed at reducing the demand for trafficking in persons. For example, Armenia had produced public messages on the need to reduce demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Argentina reported that it had monitored advertisements for commercial sex, resulting in a significantly reduced number of such advertisements. Denmark had organized a campaign aimed at discouraging demand from sex buyers and sex employers for services from trafficked persons. In Greece, the demand side and the role of clients in trafficking in persons had been addressed through a performance art project. In Portugal, several campaigns had been launched to address demand, targeting the private sector. Singapore had co-funded multisectoral conferences with non-governmental organizations to help businesses understand the implications of trafficking in persons for their supply chain management. The United States had taken legislative and regulatory steps to prevent trafficking in persons in its procurement supply chain, and had developed an online resource to help businesses combat child labour and forced labour in their supply chains.

12. Training activities for various actors, including criminal justice practitioners, immigration officials, border guards, interpreters, labour inspectors, social workers, non-governmental organizations, journalists, schoolteachers, health professionals,

and diplomatic and consular personnel, had taken place in many States. The activities had focused, among other things, on the identification of potential or existing trafficking victims.

13. States reported on their research and data collection efforts aimed at analysing the nature and extent of trafficking in persons. For example, Israel had conducted several studies aimed at improving its understanding of its national situation and advancing ways of effectively tackling trafficking in persons. In Luxembourg, a dedicated committee had collected and analysed statistical data on trafficking in persons.

14. In resolution 68/192, the General Assembly invited Member States to address the factors that made people vulnerable to trafficking in persons. Several States reported on such measures. For instance, Bulgaria and the United Kingdom had undertaken activities focusing on the vulnerabilities of children at risk. Campaigns against domestic violence, as a common root cause of trafficking, had been conducted, inter alia, in Argentina, Peru, the Republic of Moldova and Spain. The United Kingdom had also raised awareness among the staff of homeless shelters with regard to identifying the signs of trafficking in persons, given the vulnerability of homeless persons to such trafficking.

Prosecution and punishment

15. States reported on the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons. The need for close cooperation among States in the prosecution of trafficking-in-persons cases, including through effective mutual legal assistance and extradition, was the subject of detailed discussion.

16. Several States (Greece, Mexico, Peru, Singapore and United States) mentioned the establishment of specialized multidisciplinary counter-trafficking law enforcement units or specialized prosecutor's offices as an important measure for effectively investigating trafficking-in-persons cases. Some States emphasized the need for the cooperation of such units with non-governmental organizations, in particular regarding victim identification and protection.

17. States underlined the importance of proactive financial investigations. Thailand, for example, reported that in the period between January 2014 and March 2015, 107 cases of money-laundering related to trafficking in persons had been investigated.

18. States further pointed out the need for a zero-tolerance approach towards corruption, as well as the importance of a strong stand against complicity by public officials in trafficking cases. Israel reported that in 2014 three cases had been initiated against public officials that had allegedly taken bribes for providing false documents. The Philippines noted that, during the reporting period, up to 598 administrative cases had been filed against 893 government officials for their alleged involvement in trafficking cases.

19. States reported on court cases concerning trafficking in persons, including on the number of convictions (El Salvador, Philippines, Romania and Serbia). The Philippines noted that it had observed a significant increase in the conviction rate in trafficking cases, which was in part the result of institutional reforms and training in

countering trafficking. States underlined the importance of legally prescribed adequate sanctions for human traffickers.

Protection of and assistance to trafficking victims

20. In its resolution 68/192, the Assembly called upon Member States to provide protection and assistance to trafficking victims with full respect for their human rights.

21. States reported on their enhanced efforts to ensure that trafficking victims were provided with protection and assistance, emphasizing that effective victim identification was a key first step in that regard. Member States highlighted the importance of protecting victims during trials, providing protected housing to victims, permitting victims to remain in their territory, providing victims with an appropriate reflection and recovery period, facilitating safe and voluntary repatriation and reintegration, and reducing the risk of revictimization.

22. Almost all States reported on the variety of protection services provided to identified trafficking victims, including legal, economic, educational, employment, medical and psychological assistance, and social services. Member States highlighted the importance of developing national protocols or standard operating procedures on victim identification, assistance and protection.

23. States stressed the importance of addressing the special needs of children and of providing trafficking victims with access to compensation and remedies. Several States (Armenia, Israel, Luxembourg and Thailand) reported on their non-criminalization approach to trafficking victims.

Partnerships

24. In its resolution 68/192, the General Assembly urged Member States and other relevant stakeholders to continue to contribute to the full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal.

25. In their responses, States emphasized the importance of international cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as effective knowledge-sharing, in the fight against trafficking in persons.

26. States reported on the importance of bilateral cooperation in the fight against trafficking in persons. For instance, Colombia reported bilateral memorandums of understanding with other countries in the region, including Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Paraguay.

27. The importance of regional cooperation was also highlighted. El Salvador reported on a memorandum of understanding between countries in Central America against trafficking in persons in the framework of the Central American Integration System. The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand reported on counter-trafficking efforts in the context of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including the drafting of an ASEAN convention on trafficking in persons and its corresponding regional plan of action. The Russian Federation reported on a cooperation agreement between countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with respect to combating trafficking in persons.

28. Bulgaria and Greece reported on a project establishing a partnership between public and non-governmental actors from Bulgaria, Greece, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The project was aimed at improving the identification of child victims or potential victims of trafficking by training experts working with trafficking victims, raising awareness and fostering coordination and cooperation.

29. Israel hosted an international seminar on trafficking in persons for judges from 14 countries, and organized a study visit for prosecutors from Kazakhstan. The United Kingdom reported on its Work in Freedom Programme, run in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), to help girls and women in South Asia avoid being trafficked to work in the Middle East.

30. The Holy See reported on a number of initiatives to counter trafficking, including the establishment of the Global Freedom Network and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales initiative on human trafficking, and the signing of a declaration against modern slavery and trafficking in persons.

B. Activities undertaken within the United Nations system and member agencies of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

31. In its resolution 68/192, the Assembly, emphasizing the central role of the work of UNODC in the global fight against trafficking in persons, expressed support for the activities of UNODC. In particular, and as mandated in the Global Plan of Action, UNODC continued to host and manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and to collect information for the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* and coordinate the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons,[1] in addition to providing normative and technical support to Member States.

32. During the reporting period, UNODC serviced and provided technical, substantive and strategic support to the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in May 2014 and May 2015, respectively; the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in

[1] The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons is composed of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization, the International Labour Organization, the International Organization on Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Bank. The present section reflects the inputs of those member organizations which had responded to requests for information to be included in the present report.

October 2014; and the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in April 2015.

33. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as explicitly encouraged in the Global Plan of Action, continued to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, for the ratification and effective implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

34. During the reporting period, UNODC reached 37 countries through tailored technical assistance activities offered through its global programmes on trafficking in persons. Targeted capacity-building assistance at the national level was provided to 13 countries, while four Member States were supported in reviewing and amending national anti-trafficking legislation. More than 1,000 criminal justice practitioners and relevant stakeholders received specialized training and briefing through 42 technical assistance activities organized or substantively supported by the Global Programme. This included a series of training workshops on combating human trafficking for magistrates and law enforcers in Algeria, the rollout of train-the-trainers initiatives in the Congo, Morocco and Panama and a series of regional training sessions for representatives of judicial training institutions in South-Eastern Europe. The Office further supported Albania and the Congo in developing national action plans aimed at strengthening and facilitating national coordination to combat trafficking in persons.

35. Technical assistance to Member States was also provided through field-led projects across Africa, the Middle East, South, South-East and Central Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

36. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime further developed various tools and publications to support efforts by Member States to fight trafficking in persons. The Office, in close consultation with Member States, continued its work on a series of issue papers exploring key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. In October 2014, it launched an issue paper on the role of "consent" in the Protocol; in April 2015, it launched an issue paper on the concept of "exploitation" in the Protocol. Also in April 2015, the Office launched an assessment toolkit on trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs. The Office continued to research the role of recruitment fees and recruitment agencies in trafficking in persons, with a view to launching a report in June 2015. The Office further expanded the Human Trafficking Case Law Database which, as of May 2015, included about 1,200 cases from 91 jurisdictions. A case digest on evidentiary issues drawn from those cases is at an advanced stage of development.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

37. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to mainstream human rights and a victim-based approach to trafficking in persons. In particular, OHCHR assisted Member States, including Tunisia and Yemen, in the process of developing national legislation on combating trafficking in persons. It provided capacity development and assistance in Belarus and in the Middle East and North Africa region with that goal in mind. Furthermore, OHCHR published a new fact sheet, providing general knowledge on the linkages between human rights and human trafficking.

38. The Office also promoted the human-rights-based approach to countering trafficking in persons in several conferences and training events organized by United Nations partners, civil society and academia. Jointly with the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, OHCHR launched a campaign against trafficking and slavery, raising awareness of the linkages between the two heinous crimes. The Office participated in events marking the European Union anti-trafficking day and the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

39. During the reporting period, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in close cooperation with OHCHR, finalized draft basic principles on the right to effective remedies for victims of trafficking in persons. The principles reflect input from Member States in the form of replies to a questionnaire, taking account of the outcome of five regional and two international consultations of experts. The resulting report was submitted to the Human Rights Council in June 2014. The Special Rapporteur conducted a country visit to Seychelles in January 2014. In addition, the Special Rapporteur submitted a thematic report to the Human Rights Council in June 2014 and to the General Assembly in October 2014, taking stock of the work of the mandate during its first 10 years.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

40. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to support capacity-building and information campaigns to address the impact of trafficking in persons on asylum seekers, refugees and stateless persons. Together with other agencies and the support of Governments, UNHCR contributed to the development, inclusion and reform of national and regional legislation, policies and action plans to combat trafficking in persons.

41. The operations of UNHCR have integrated responses to trafficking in persons as part of their protection response mechanisms. During the reporting period, UNHCR provided such support to various States, including Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Panama, the Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia. Furthermore, UNHCR cooperates with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the International Organization on Migration (IOM) to conduct regular capacity-building activities, inter alia, in Armenia, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Eastern European countries.

42. The Office engaged in initiatives to combat trafficking in persons at the regional level, including by providing support to the African Union for the regional ministerial conference on human trafficking and smuggling in the Horn of Africa, held in October 2014 in Khartoum. In the declaration of that conference, States recognized that refugees and asylum seekers comprised a significant number of trafficking victims in Africa, and States committed to victim treatment in accordance with regional and international obligations. The Office also actively participated in the mixed-migration task force for the East and Horn of Africa. The collaboration between UNHCR and the Singapore Management University resulted in the compilation of applicable frameworks to address trafficking in seven countries of the region. An initiative on a trafficking database, through the regional

support office of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, is under way.

International Labour Organization

43. The International Labour Organization continued its work to fight forced labour and trafficking in persons. At the 103rd session of the International Labour Conference, the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention of 1930, and the Recommendation on Supplementary Measures for the Effective Suppression of Forced Labour, were adopted. The Protocol and the Recommendation emphasized the link between forced labour and trafficking in persons.

44. During the reporting period, among other activities, ILO initiated a fair recruitment initiative to prevent trafficking in persons and to reduce the costs of labour migration. The Organization launched, in collaboration with the International Training Centre in Italy, an online e-learning tool on investigating trafficking in persons and forced labour crimes, and carried out surveys and research to facilitate analysis on trafficking in persons. The Organization continued to engage with its constituents at the country level to eliminate forced labour and trafficking in persons.

United Nations Development Programme

45. During the reporting period, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched a new regional anti-trafficking initiative for Asia and the Pacific, the United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons project, to be implemented over the period from 2014 to 2018. This project is aimed at supporting the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, a subregional intergovernmental process that brings together Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

46. In 2014, the Initiative developed its fourth subregional plan of action through a participatory process, drawing on a results-based framework with measurable indicators and monitoring tools. Youth engagement was institutionalized. The United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons project further facilitated the establishment of a regional anti-trafficking network composed of 20 key organizations, including United Nations agencies, civil society and research institutions. It spearheaded a number of research initiatives, including on trafficking patterns from the northern provinces of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to China and research on Cambodia-China cross-border marriage migration patterns. The initiative also launched a civil society grant scheme for non-governmental organizations in the Greater Mekong subregion.

International Civil Aviation Organization

47. The International Civil Aviation Organization continued its work relating to annex 9 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, setting out international standards for travel documents aimed at countering activities related to trafficking in persons. The Organization also established a traveller identification programme, providing an international framework for coordinating the various elements of identification management.

International Organization for Migration

48. The International Organization for Migration continued to strengthen the capacities of Governments and civil society to respond to trafficking in persons, including through capacity-building and training. It engaged in data collection and research. The Organization also promoted cooperation and provided direct assistance to trafficked persons.

49. During the reporting period, IOM promoted dialogue and cooperation at the local, national, regional and international levels. For example, it continued to work through the framework of the regional Migration Coordination Task Force for the North-Eastern African Migratory Route and North Africa. It also raised awareness about human trafficking through various campaigns, and worked with private companies to address the issue of the demand for cheap labour and services as a root cause of human trafficking. The Organization continued to maintain its Global Human Trafficking Database. In 2014 alone, IOM provided direct assistance to 6,290 trafficking victims that had been identified in over 90 States. The Global Assistance Fund of IOM also continued to support the provision of case-specific direct assistance.

C. Towards full implementation: appraisal and way forward

Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action

50. On 30 July 2010, a decade after the adoption of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/293, adopted the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons as a renewed commitment by Member States to combating trafficking in persons globally and to reinforcing the obligations accepted by Member States under legally binding international instruments, including the Protocol.

51. The Global Plan of Action gave new impetus to the efforts of the international community to end trafficking in persons. Governments resolved to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protect and assist victims, prosecute related crimes and strengthen partnerships among governmental institutions, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, including the media. Among the greatest achievements of the Global Plan of Action was the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*.

52. In General Assembly resolution 64/293, Member States decided to appraise in 2013 the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. That first appraisal took place from 13 to 15 May 2013 in the form of a high-level meeting of the Assembly. Eighty-eight Member States and three observers made statements during the plenary session. As stated in resolution 68/192, the high-level meeting evinced strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons. Building on the experience of this first appraisal, the Assembly decided to appraise, from within existing resources on a four-year basis, starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global

Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments.

Consideration of the need for meetings of representatives of national coordinating mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons

53. In its resolution 68/192, the General Assembly invited the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, established by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to consider the need for meetings of representatives of national coordinating mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons, with a view to facilitating, inter alia, better international coordination and information exchange on good practices. Although during the reporting period neither the Commission nor the Working Group considered this matter, in May 2014 the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, OHCHR and UNODC co-hosted a meeting of national rapporteurs and coordination mechanisms on trafficking in persons in Bangkok. It was the second meeting of its kind, following the first consultative meeting held in May 2013 in Berlin.

54. The General Assembly, in its resolution 68/192, encouraged UNODC and other members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to continue to contribute in line with their existing mandates to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and invited them to elaborate, in cooperation with Member States, a list of concrete measures planned until 2017 aimed at implementing the Global Plan of Action and to present it in an appropriate manner to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The Assembly also invited Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions, inter alia, for that purpose. No such dedicated voluntary resources were received during the reporting period. Accordingly, a separate process to elaborate and present a list of measures could not be undertaken. However, for the present report, Member States and other stakeholders, as well as the 16 member entities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, have been consulted, including in particular on their approach to implementing the Global Plan of Action.

D. Post-2015 development agenda

55. At the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in 2010, Member States made commitments related to combating trafficking in persons in elaborating the post-2015 development agenda, which will guide United Nations development planning after 2015. In its resolution 68/192, the Assembly invited Member States to give due consideration to those commitments.

56. As of May 2015, the process of defining a post-2015 development agenda was still ongoing. There had been numerous inputs to the agenda, notably a set of sustainable development goals proposed by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals,[2] along with the report of an

[2] A/68/970 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, among other things.

57. The proposal of the Open Working Group, issued in August 2014, specifically considered trafficking in persons under sustainable development goals 5 ("Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls") and 16 ("Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels") by elaborating targets 5.2 ("Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation") and 16.2 ("End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children"). A proposal of indicators related to trafficking in persons has been elaborated by UNODC and submitted for discussion by stakeholders, including Member States.

58. The post-2015 development agenda is scheduled to be launched at a summit in September 2015.

IV. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*: update on research and trend analysis

59. As requested in the Global Plan of Action, UNODC in November 2014 published the second *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*. The report focused on patterns and flows related to trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels during the period from 2010 to 2012, providing information on 128 countries in all regions of the world.

60. The 2014 *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* confirmed that trafficking in persons affected virtually every region, showing that victims with 152 different citizenships had been identified in 124 countries. Moreover, UNODC had identified at least 510 trafficking flows, with most of the flows being intraregional, in which victims were trafficked from poorer countries to more affluent ones within the same region.

61. The 2014 *Global Report* concluded that, while a majority of trafficking victims had been subjected to sexual exploitation (53 per cent), other forms of exploitation — mainly trafficking for forced labour — were increasingly being detected. Between 2010 and 2012, 40 per cent of victims had been trafficked for forced labour.

62. About 49 per cent of the victims detected were adult women. Women comprised the vast majority of the detected victims who had been trafficked for sexual exploitation. Of the detected victims who had been trafficked for forced labour, men comprised a significant majority, while women still made up nearly one third. Children comprised 33 per cent of detected trafficking victims overall. That was a 5 per cent increase compared with the 2007-2010 period. Two out of every three child victims were girls. The global figure obscured significant regional differences. In some areas, child trafficking was the major trafficking-related concern.

63. The next *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, which will be prepared pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, will be issued by UNODC in 2016. Member

States are encouraged to provide to UNODC evidence-based data on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons.

V. Developments relating to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

64. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime continued to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,[3] and to encourage contributions from Member States and other stakeholders.

65. The Trust Fund concluded its first three-year grant-making cycle in December 2014. A total of 11 projects from civil society organizations specialized in victim assistance received nearly $750,000 in grants to assist thousands of children, women and men worldwide.

66. The call for proposals for the second grant cycle was launched in 2014. A total of 113 proposals from 59 countries were received. The Board of Trustees recommended grants to 21 projects for a total of around $1 million, and recommended keeping the remaining 70 eligible projects on a reserve list for further consideration, should more funding become available, until December 2016. The new grants will be announced after final approval of UNODC as the fund manager.

67. An independent evaluation of the management of the Trust Fund was conducted in the second half of 2014. The evaluators assessed progress made since the Fund's inception in the following areas: relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, partnerships and lessons learned. The evaluation concluded that, overall, the Fund had made credible progress and that there was an undisputed need for increased direct assistance to victims of human trafficking.

68. A new high-profile board of trustees was appointed by the Secretary-General in December 2013 for the period 2014-2016, taking into account their expertise in the area of human trafficking and fair geographical representation. The Chair of the Board is Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Austria). Other members include Saisuree Chutikul (Thailand), Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (Nigeria), Ketevan Khutsishvili (Georgia) and Virna Luque Ferro (Panama).

69. Since its establishment in 2010, the Trust Fund has received $2 million in paid contributions, with an annual average of $400,000. Nineteen Member States and over 30 private sector donors, whose contributions account for almost one third of the funds received, have provided funding. The level of contributions received is still below the expected levels required to provide assistance with a significant impact, as intended upon the establishment of the Fund.

[3] Additional information on the Trust Fund is available from www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking-fund.html.

VI. Activities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons

70. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons was mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/180 to enhance cooperation and coordination and facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach by the international community to the problem of trafficking in persons. The Group is comprised of 16 entities of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations. In accordance with Assembly resolution 61/180, UNODC has been designated to coordinate the activities of the Group and continued to provide secretariat services to it. The Group held its first meeting in 2006, convened pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27. An annually rotating chairmanship was introduced in 2011 and formalized through the adoption of terms of reference in 2013.

71. During the reporting period, the chairmanship was held by IOM in 2014 and UNHCR in 2015.

72. The activities of the Group during the reporting period were guided by an annual workplan elaborated jointly by six of its member entities. The six entities, who together form the decision-making body of the Group referred to as the "working group", are the ILO, IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNODC.

73. Among the activities under its 2014 workplan, the Group published a policy paper on preventing trafficking in persons by addressing demand. The paper was presented to Member States on the margins of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna in 2014. The paper was the second in a series of policy papers that the Group had committed to developing, starting in 2012, each examining one key issue that had been identified by the members of the Group as a critical challenge for the international community to address in the next decade in the fight against trafficking in persons.

74. In 2014, the Group further commenced work on two additional publications under the policy paper series, which will explore the issue of providing effective remedies for trafficked persons and the challenge of evaluating responses designed to counter trafficking.

75. In January 2015, the six working group agencies hosted a consultative briefing for Permanent Missions at United Nations headquarters in New York on the work and priorities of the Group in 2015 and beyond. At that briefing, the Group shared its intention of holding such events on a regular basis in future.

76. The Group's six-member working group furthermore continued to meet on a regular basis to exchange information, coordinate on matters of policy, and drive the implementation of joint activities under the workplan. During the reporting period, meetings were held in Geneva, Vienna and New York.

VII. Raising awareness: activities to mark 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

77. In its resolution 68/192, the General Assembly decided, in the context of the need for raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights, to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed every year beginning in 2014. The Assembly invited all Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to observe the World Day.

78. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime used the blue heart, as an internationally recognized symbol in the fight against trafficking in persons, in the core of its activities for the World Day. A dedicated event was held in Vienna that included the performance of the World Peace Choir and the release of 500 blue heart-shaped balloons to demonstrate solidarity with trafficking victims. A high-level event was held in New York, organized jointly with the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking. The Office developed a dedicated World Day Campaign website, a World Day logo in various languages, and a leaflet. A social media campaign encouraged people around the world to share pictures of themselves forming a heart in solidarity with victims. A coordinated message across several social media platforms reached over 5.5 million people.

79. Marking the World Day, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons issued its first-ever joint statement. Speaking with one voice, member agencies highlighted the importance of addressing the demand for services and goods produced by trafficked victims.

80. Numerous United Nations entities and other international organizations issued statements on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNICEF, the International Criminal Police Organization and IOM.

81. A special event was organized in Geneva to mark the first World Day, organized by Belarus on behalf of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, with the support of OHCHR. The event was attended by IOM in its capacity as the chair of the Group. In addition, the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) hosted a round-table discussion on "Human trafficking: a global challenge", dedicated to the World Day, organized by the Permanent Mission of Belarus to UNESCO.

82. At the national level, events were held around the world. For instance, in Brazil, several landmarks were lit in blue, the colour of the Blue Heart campaign. In Colombia, an international meeting was organized by the Interior Ministry, the Marcela Loaiza Foundation and UNODC. In Senegal, an event shed light on the main trends relating to trafficking in persons in West Africa. In Japan, civil society staged an awareness-raising event in one of the busiest train stations in Tokyo. In Mexico, local government officials were recognized for their efforts in the prosecution and prevention of trafficking in persons, and a training course on trafficking in persons and a Blue Heart-themed walk through the capital of the state of Chiapas were organized.

VIII. Resource situation of the United Nations system, in particular of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with regard to combating trafficking in persons

83. As recognized by Member States in General Assembly resolution 68/192, UNODC, as the guardian agency of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols, plays a central role in the global fight against trafficking in persons. Among other work, UNODC contributes to policy development and provides technical assistance to Member States upon request, such as legislative assistance and capacity-building with a focus on the criminal justice perspective. The Assembly further mandated UNODC to manage the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, to prepare biennial reports on patterns and flows of trafficking in persons, and to coordinate the activities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.

84. To fulfil its mandates on trafficking in persons, UNODC relies primarily on extrabudgetary resources from Member States and other donors, with only two dedicated regular budget positions being available for its work on trafficking in persons overall: one in its Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section and one in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons Unit.

85. The resources available for the work of UNODC on trafficking in persons, in particular for its normative and policy work, continue to be limited. This has a severe impact on the capacity of UNODC to provide support to policy development, as well as to support intergovernmental and inter-agency processes to complement the legal and other technical assistance requested by Member States. In light of a growing demand by Member States for technical assistance relating to trafficking in persons and the corresponding need for increased policy guidance and enhanced cooperation and coordination with other stakeholders, additional resources are necessary to allow UNODC to adequately respond to the assistance needs of Member States at the national, regional and international levels. In particular, the capacity of UNODC to undertake additional tasks is entirely dependent on the availability of adequate resources.

86. The Office continues to seek extrabudgetary resources to carry out its work relating to trafficking in persons. In resolution 68/192, the General Assembly invited Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions to UNODC for that purpose.

87. During the reporting period, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons greatly benefited from a voluntary contribution from the Government of Sweden that allowed it to maintain a dedicated secretariat, hold regular in-person meetings of representatives of all six working group member agencies and undertake relevant policy research. This greatly enhanced the Group's effectiveness as an inter-agency policy-setting mechanism. Efforts are being undertaken to find renewed funding, as the current contribution will end in 2015. Member States are encouraged to consider making voluntary contributions to support the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.

88. Given the importance of the fight against trafficking in persons, Member States are encouraged to increase their voluntary contributions to support the work of the United Nations related to trafficking in persons.

IX. Recommendations

89. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider taking the following actions:

(a) Call upon Member States that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

(b) Call upon Member States to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, through effectively criminalizing trafficking in persons, providing victim protection and assistance, and strengthening international cooperation;

(c) Call upon Member States to strengthen prevention efforts, including through addressing factors that create vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons, awareness-raising, and marking the annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July;

(d) Invite Member States to provide adequate voluntary resources for the work of the United Nations system agencies on trafficking in persons, including in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons;

(e) Encourage Member States and private donors to give financial contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

(f) Encourage Member States to support the biennial publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.